

DR. COOK DEFENDS POLAR NARRATIVE

World's Greatest Fak-
er Gives the Lie to
Knud Rasmussen.

SAYS EXPLORER IS A MUCKRAKER

Stays in Cook Band-Wagon Till
Music Stops, Then Goes With
Peary, and Finally Joins
Anti-Pearyites for Sake
of Keeping in
Limelight.

New York, December 25.—Character-
izing Knud Rasmussen, the Danish ex-
plorer, as one who would "stoop to the
depths of a literary muckraker to get
public attention," Dr. Frederick A.
Cook gave out a statement to-night in
answer to Rasmussen's attack of No-
vember 9 last, in which alleged inter-
views with Cook's Eskimo companions
were cited to show that the North Pole
was not reached by them.

Incidental to his defense of his own
narrative of Arctic exploration, Dr.
Cook says that by Rasmussen's methods
of investigating, Robert E. Peary could
with equal ease be discredited, but
declares that he "will take Mr. Peary's
word in preference to either that of
Rasmussen or the Eskimos in the mat-
ter of his own accomplishments."

Brands Statements as False.

In his statement given out to-night
Dr. Cook answers categorically the
statements imputed to the Eskimo boys,
denying each in turn and giving rea-
sons why he thinks they should be
considered false; declares that Rasmus-
sen has reason to dislike him (Cook);
says no effort was made to get at the
truth in the alleged examination of the
two boys.

Dr. Cook says that on the contrary,
he was plying with leading questions,
designed to elicit the answers desired,
and points out what he terms the
well-known trait of all Indians to give
answers which they believe will please
their questioners.

Now let us examine Rasmussen's
latest charges. He starts out by say-
ing: "Already in 1899 there existed
grave doubts as to whether Dr. Cook
really had reached the pole." It is his
conviction that this is a false position in
the very start. For, without a word
of instruction from me, he came out in
vigorous and voluminous reports in
my defense. Why did he jump into the
Cook band wagon and shout, if he
had doubts?

Number of details are here cited
by Dr. Cook to contradict alleged re-
marks of the Eskimos concerning the
number of sledges and the time it took
them to travel over certain distances.
All these false statements, continues
the doctor, would have been found
false by putting a few questions to
the older men of the supporting party;
but it was not done, although there
were a half-dozen men who could have
answered or denied the boys' story.

Even Mr. Peary's statements, says Dr.
Cook, contradict these assertions. He
continues:

"The meanest slur which Rasmus-
sen throws is that of cheating the
boys. They were paid before we
started. Therefore Rasmussen's charge
is as false as the whole fabric of his
weaving; but instead of keeping to my
promise I gave them many more things
and instructed them to tell the truth
over all my belongings to them when
he left. It is, therefore, in the power
of Whitney to say whether I cheated
the Eskimos or not. And if Rasmus-
sen is wrong on this baseless charge,
can he be believed in anything else?"

Discredits Missionaries.

Dr. Cook, turning his attention to the
missionaries, through whom, it is al-
leged, Rasmussen obtained the Eskimo
boys' statement, explains that they
were half-breed Eskimo Christians,
who were quite unable to make them-
selves understood by the Eskimos to
whom they preached, "and yet these
same missionaries are credited with
sufficient intelligence to cross-examine
the Eskimo boys about something which
they themselves had just heard and un-
derstand."

Dr. Cook says in conclusion:

"During all of last winter Rasmus-
sen traveled through Denmark on a
lecture tour, and in his discourses he
has vigorously defended Peary. For
years Rasmussen has been a devotee
of abuse on Peary, most of it not fit to
print. There is something irrational
about Rasmussen's public utterances."

"The only rational explanation for
Rasmussen's irrational course is to
show him was an ambition to get into
the limelight. For he first jumps
without invitation on the Cook band
wagon; when the music stops he joins
the rebound of the shouting press;
then, out of a job, he runs to the Peary
band wagon. Again, when the music
stops, he joins the noisy anti-Peary
knockers. I hope the outcome has
given him the publicity which he has
aimed for. But need an explorer stoop
to the depths of a literary muckraker
to get public attention?"

EARL OF ANCASTER DEAD

He Was Joint Hereditary Lord Great
Chamberlain to England.

London, December 25.—The Earl of
Ancaster died to-day.

Gilbert Henry Heathcote Drum-
mond-Wilgton was born October
1830. The earldom of Ancaster was
created in 1892. The earl was a privy
counselor and joint hereditary lord
great chamberlain of England. His
eldest son, Lord Willoughby de Broese,
in 1905 married Miss Eloise Breeze,
daughter of the late W. L. Breeze, of
New York.

MARKLES ABOLISH NEPOTISM

Superintendents Not Allowed to Retain
Relatives in Their Departments.

Hazleton, Pa., December 25.—The
order of John Markle, managing partner
of the firm of G. B. Markle & Co., the
largest individual hard coal operators
in the country, that nepotism must be
abolished at the collieries of that com-
pany January 1, has resulted in many
employees losing their places.

CHRISTMAS DAY OF MANY ACCIDENTS

Good-Will Season Brings
Sorrow to Scores
of Homes.

BOMBS FIGURE IN DAY'S NEWS

Explosion at Dance Kills Three
and Wounds Eight Fatally.
Two Bombs Are Hurling in
New York—A Time
of Mourning in
Chicago.

Greensburg, Pa., December 25.—
Three persons are dead, eight prob-
ably will die as the result of their in-
juries, and ten more are in the West-
moreland Hospital with painful burns,
as penalty for vengeance, while miners
were holding a Christmas celebration
at Keystone shaft, near here, late last
night. The accident occurred at the
home of Michael Wilding, while he
was entertaining a party of about
twenty-five men and women, some of
whom had come from Youngstown, O.,
to work in the mines here. It is
believed that one of the men in the
party, while a dance was in progress,
threw a stick of dynamite carelessly
under the stairway of the house. Two-
ty-five pounds of black mining powder
said to have been stored there in an
open barrel. Rumor was current
that striking miners had thrown a
bomb under the stairway, but there
was no confirmation of the report.
Flames from the powder shot through
the room, and the acid smoke blinded
the dancers as they broke away for
escape.

The clothing of nearly all the dan-
cers took fire from the explosion, and
although the room was burned, and
blackened, no lives were seriously
lost. Men in adjoining houses
rushed in with blankets and wrapped
them about the burning women, say-
ing that the explosion was a black
bomb. H. F. Boyard, of the mine, arranged
for a special train, which brought the
injured to this city.

TWO BOMBS EXPLODED

Police Have No Clue to Perpetrators
of Crimes.

New York, December 25.—As the cul-
mination of the police say, of a feud
of long standing among Harlem gam-
blers, two dynamite bombs exploded
last night, killing five minutes of the
early day in the vestibules of
Harlem houses. Several thousand
people were in the place, and the
lars in damage was done and the
upstairs were thrown into an
uproar. Both bombs were off shortly
before 2 o'clock this morning. The
place is on the corner of Sixty-third
Street. The police have no definite
clue as to the identity of the perpe-
trators of the crime.

On one side of the places of the
explosion is a new social club and on
the other a dance hall. The windows
in these buildings were shattered and
the club members and a bevy of dan-
cers were thrown into confusion.

Before the surprise of the explosion
had disappeared there came another
more violent crash a block away. It
blew away both the inner and outer
doors of the building and rattled near-
by residents from their beds.

Both places are near a club which
was raided not long ago by Deputy
Police Commissioner Driscoll. After
the raid the commissioner announced
that gamblers had raised a fund of
\$15,000 to kill him.

A DAY OF MOURNING

Christmas Services Joined With Ex-
pression of Sorrow for the Dead.

Chicago, Ill., December 25.—Christ-
mas was a day of mourning for the
Chicago Fire Department, which held
services in the Union Stock Yards on
Thursday, when a fire of the Morris &
Co. beef houses swept away the lives
of Fire Chief Horan and his son, and
other men who were vividly brought to
mind. In the churches, Christmas ser-
vices were joined with expressions of
sorrow for the dead, friends by side
their families. From the staffs of the
public buildings and many residences
flags hung at half-mast to-day.

Eight of the dead firemen were
buried to-day. The funeral services
were attended by all members of the
Fire Department, which could not spare
four city officials and hundreds
of citizens.

The funeral of Fire Marshal James
H. Horan will take place at twelve
o'clock to-morrow at the residence of
other victims of the fire, Captain Den-
nis E. Doyle and his son, Nicholas
Doyle, who has been in this country only
four days, were found in the wreck-
age of the packing plant, only an arm's
length apart.

NEVER WILL PLAY AGAIN

Violinist's Fingers Blown Off by Can-
non Cracker.

Rome, Ga., December 25.—As a re-
sult of his first experience with fire-
works, Alexander Skis Simpson, a well-
known Russian violinist and professor
in Shorter College here, never will be
able to play his violin again. He was
killed last night and called for Roman
candles. Instead, he was given a giant
cracker. The cracker exploded in his
hand, tearing away three fingers.

Mrs. Skis, also a teacher in the
college, was standing nearby and was
rendered permanently deaf in one ear
by the explosion.

CHRISTMAS WREATH KILLS

Open Gas Cook, and Woman Is As-
saulted by Flames.

Chicago, December 25.—A Christmas
holly wreath swinging from a chan-
delier forced open a gas cook at the
home of Mrs. Edna Simpson, of Toronto.
Mrs. Simpson was dead when found
by her daughter, Rose, in a room
from Toronto last week to visit her
daughter, Mrs. Edward Tiffin.

DIES OF STRANGULATION

Driver Meets Death With Head Over
Dashboard.

Charlotte, N. C., December 25.—Walter
Ross, a driver for the Southern Ex-
press Company, met death early this
morning in a manner never before re-
corded in the local coroner's office.
Kept busy making city deliveries until
the small hours of the morning in very
cold weather, Ross was alone, and
inclement, and when his team
reached the stable he was in a semi-
stupor. A sudden jolt of the heavy
wheeled vehicle threw him over the
dash-
(Continued on Second Page.)

STUDENTS SAVE THEMSELVES BY SWINGING DOWN ON FIRE ESCAPE

North Wing of Rich-
mond College Utterly
Wrecked by Flames.

TOTAL DAMAGE ABOUT \$65,000

Heroic Battle to Prevent Ruin
of Main Structure Won at Last.
Volunteers Worked Bravely
to Save Priceless Relics.
College to Gamely Out-
live Its Loss.

Students Ruined by Hungry Flames

Many of the students who are
working their way through Rich-
mond College—students who could
not afford to go home for Christ-
mas—lost heavily in the fire, which
wrecked the north wing of that
institution early yesterday morn-
ing. Probably \$5,000 will put them
on their feet. Unless this amount
is raised, some of the students who
generous public which has never
failed to answer a worthy appeal
comes to their rescue—these young
men must close their eyes to com-
pleting their education, and go out
into the world, ill-trained, to find
work. President Boatwright can
personally make for every victim.
There can be no holiday cheer for
these young men if they must
suddenly have to live, their
hopes shattered, their hearts sad.

Originating in the northeast corner
of the fourth floor, fire early yesterday
entirely destroyed the north
wing of Ryland Hall, the main build-
ing of the Richmond College group,
and seriously damaged the central por-
tion of that structure. The college is
located on a new site in the city,
and is protected by ample insur-
ance, but a large number of students
have lost practically all of their be-
longings, with no insurance what-
soever. Some ministerial and other stu-
dents lost their books, clothes and all
which they had hoped to complete
their college career, and unless aided
will have to withdraw from the insti-
tution.

Three men came down an outside
fire escape from the fourth floor in
their night clothes, leaving everything
behind them, and with every other es-
cape cut off by roaring flames.

Will Rent Dormitories.

There will be no interruption to the
college term. The finance committee
of the board of trustees met yesterday
and authorized President P.
W. Boatwright to lease dormitory and
lecture room quarters near the cam-
pus, and the institution will reopen af-
ter the holidays, as announced. The
north wing, which is the largest of the
building, was practically uninjured, though
when the fire continued to eat its way
through the center of the building
along the fourth floor and roof. Fire
Chief Joyner advised that all valu-
ables in the building, including the mu-
seum, and 15,000 volumes from the
library were moved by willing hands.

Origin a Mystery.

The origin of the fire is somewhat
of a mystery, and President Boatwright
declines to make any statement re-
spect to it. It is a fact, however, that
there are several fraternity halls on the
fourth floor of the burned wing, and
that on Christmas Eve night receptions
were given there to the students of
the college. It is also a fact that the
fire started in the night, and that the
authorities are unwilling to reflect on
these organizations in any way. Pos-
sibly a cigarette or lighted cigar stump
may have been carelessly thrown, and
the fire started. There was no fire
in Ryland Hall, the college buildings
being heated from a central steam
heating plant under the north building,
some distance away. Nor were there
any electric wires or other lighting
in the building in that part of the struc-
ture in which the fire started.

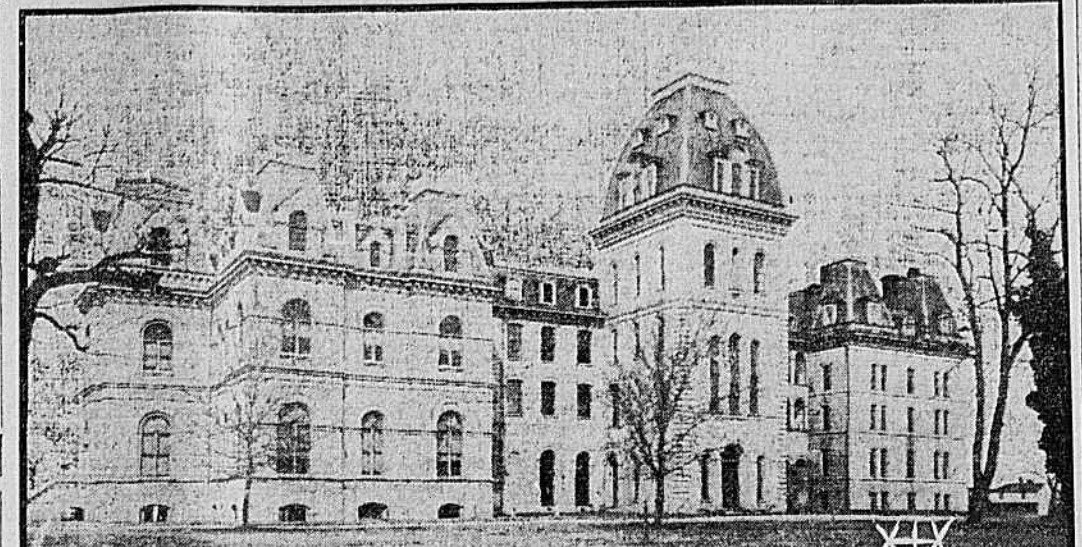
Fortunately, a large number of stu-
dents were away for the Christmas
holidays. Had the fire occurred at any
other time, the night may have been
disaster. In getting all out, and seri-
ous loss of life might have ensued.
About 200 students live on the cam-
pus in one or another of the dormi-
tories. At the dinner hour on Satur-
day all but twenty of the students were
home for the holidays. Of those remain-
ing, twelve roomed in Ryland Hall, and
all are accounted for.

Came Down Fire Escape.

It was just at 4:20 A. M. that the fire
was first noted, and then the whole
north wing of the Richmond College,
mainly unoccupied dormitories, was
in open flames. W. M. Hall, of West Vir-
ginia; K. W. Cauthorn, of Appomattox,
Va.; and J. A. George, of Washington,
N. C., three ministerial students, had
rooms on the fourth floor of the wing.
A cry from Hall aroused the other two
to find the passageway full of smoke,
and around the turn leading to the
only stairway was a solid sheet of
flame. Their call for help was heard
by some unknown man passing west-
ward along Broad Street, who waved
his hand and ran to No. 10 engine
house, scarcely a block away, where
the alarm was given. Before leaving
the engine house Captain Thomas H.
Davis pulled the box for assistance and
ordered a second alarm on arriving at
the college, where three white-robed
figures were making their way down
an outside fire escape recently erected
on the north end. Other students, hap-
pily dressed, and some not dressed at
all, shivered in the freezing air while
neighbors and professors gathered
about the blazing wing.

Two Engines Guard City.

Immediately on arriving at the scene
Fire Chief Joyner got into communication
with fire headquarters and gave the
transfer orders which brought ten
of the twelve engines of the city to
the scene. Because of the fact that it
was Christmas morning, and the men
were on the alert for damage from
fireworks, no general alarm was sound-
ed, but orders were quietly issued from
the city hall.



Cross marks under picture of Richmond College show wing destroyed by fire.

Fire Department headquarters at the
City Hall for transfer of company after
company, until two engines, one of
which was the engine that had been
kept for this season by T. C. Durham
and W. L. O'Flaherty. This engine also
had in it the college post-office, a large
amount of student mail having been
burned. In the book store was a stock
of textbooks and stationery, valued at
\$300, the personal property of the
students, and they had no insurance.
Both Mr. O'Flaherty and Mr. Durham
had left college for the holidays, and
were notified yesterday of their loss.
Above the first floor there were three
floors of dormitories in the burned
wing, and in them sixty-nine students
had their rooms.

Few of those who had gone home had
taken more than a suit case, and all
lost their trunks, room furniture,
clothes and books. Most of the minis-
terial students in the college lived in
this wing, and many of them lost
everything they have. The students
owned their own room furniture, aver-
aging in value \$25; books for each stu-
dent would average \$25, and with other
belongings, the average loss per stu-
dent is placed at from \$75 to \$100.

Losses Valuable Library.

L. P. Paulett, formerly a business
man of Richmond, who recently decid-
ed to study for the Baptist ministry,
had in his room on the third floor a
library of more than 500 volumes, col-
lected for years past. It is a total loss,
with no insurance.

President Boatwright said yesterday
that it was difficult to place an exact
value on the burned portion of the
building. The north wing cost when
erected \$35,000, and is a total loss, the
rest of the building being damaged.

On the same floor with the president's
office was the students' book store,
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had in it the college post-office, a large
amount of student mail having been
burned. In the book store was a stock
of textbooks and stationery, valued at
\$300, the personal property of the
students, and they had no insurance.

Both Mr. O'Flaherty and Mr. Durham
had left college for the holidays, and
were notified yesterday of their loss.
Above the first floor there were three
floors of dormitories in the burned
wing, and in them sixty-nine students
had their rooms.

Few of those who had gone home had
taken more than a suit case, and all
lost their trunks, room furniture,
clothes and books. Most of the minis-
terial students in the college lived in
this wing, and many of them lost
everything they have. The students
owned their own room furniture, aver-
aging in value \$25; books for each stu-
dent would average \$25, and with other
belongings, the average loss per stu-
dent is placed at from \$75 to \$100.

Losses Valuable Library.

L. P. Paulett, formerly a business